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Vol. 47 No. 4 Pages: 12 Rs. 3.00
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I am committed to bring Metro Rail to Mysuru: MP

'Congress has scuttled Greater Mysuru City Corporation project for political reasons'

MP Pratap Simha

> "Mysuru has to get a Metro Rail service. We have to start now, else it will become chaotic to build a metro system later like it has happened in Bengaluru."

A photo of Namma Metro in Bengaluru.

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (RK&BCT)- During the virtual inauguration of two new sections of Bengaluru Namma Metro last October, PM Modi hinted at the possibility of metro service in Mysuru.

Building upon Modi's vision, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha recently declared that Mysuru is on the brink of a transportation revolution akin to Bengaluru's Namma Metro, with the impending introduction of a Metro Rail system.

"Similar to Bengaluru's Namma Metro, which has eased traffic congestion and provided a reliable speedy public transportation option, Mysuru has to get a Metro Rail service. And we should do it now before Mysuru grows, else it will become chaotic to build a Metro system later, like it has happened in Bengaluru," the MP said.

However, amidst the optimism, critical details regarding the project are yet to be disclosed.

"Elaborate plans will be devised after the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," Simha told *Star of Mysore* this morning.

"I have already committed to the people of Mysuru that I will bring Metro Rail to Mysuru to address the city's growing transportation needs," the MP Pratap Simha said.

(See METRO on page 7)

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Bhoomi puja performed at new DC's Office for D. Devaraj Urs statue

Mysuru, Feb.19 (MTY&DM)- At last, the project to install the statue of former Chief Minister late **D. Devaraj Urs** took a significant step forward today.

Bhoomi Puja was performed for the installation of the statue at the new Deputy Commissioner's Office in Siddarthanagar jointly by MLA Tanveer Sait, MLC A.H. Vishwanath, DC Dr. K.V. Rajendra and Congress leader Suraj Hegde, the grandson of late D. Devaraj Urs.

This statue project is a collaborative effort between the district administration and the Kannada and Culture Department, at an estimated cost of Rs. 92 lakh.

The statue will stand at 12 feet tall, sculpted from black granite by Mysuru's renowned sculptor Arun Yogiraj and his elder brother Suryaprakash Yogiraj.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. K.V. Rajendra, MLC A.H. Vishwanath, MLA Tanveer Sait and Congress leader Suraj Hegde** (third from right), **grandson of the late former CM D. Devaraj Urs, jointly performing bhoomi puja for Urs statue at the new Deputy Commissioner's Office premises in city this morning. Also seen are ZP CEO K.M. Gayathri and District Kannada Sahitya Parishat former President M. Chandrashekar.

Arun Yogiraj gained national and international recognition for sculpting the Balak Ram statue consecrated at Ayodhya.

Initially, the plan was to install Urs statue at the junction of D. Devaraj Urs Road and JLB Road. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the execution of this plan was delayed.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Tanveer Sait expressed the fulfilment of the long-standing aspirations of the people of the Old Mysuru region to witness a statue honouring their leader who hailed from Mysuru.

"Beyond his regional roots, Devaraj Urs remains a towering figure in the annals of Karnataka's history, revered for his unwavering commitment to the welfare of all segments of society. His efforts towards fostering an egalitarian society, ensuring equal opportunities for all, are unparalleled," Tanveer Sait said.

(See DEVARAJ URS on page 6)

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 19th February 2024

Cyber Crime: Cops create awareness among women

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (TRR) - Concerned about the rising cyber crimes nationwide, Cyber, Economics and Narcotics Crime (CEN) Police have initiated a campaign aimed at increasing awareness among the people.

Recognising that educated women and elderly individuals are particularly vulnerable for online fraudsters, the City Police are actively engaging with these demographics to educate them about cyber crime risks.

On Friday evening, a team of Officers, led by a woman Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Police and three other women Police personnel, conducted an awareness session focusing on women at K.C. Layout park.

During the session, the Police cautioned participants against clicking on anonymous links and disregarding messages claiming they've won prizes. They also advised against responding to 'work-from-home' messages on the Telegram App or WhatsApp, especially those containing links.

Additionally, attendees were urged not to disclose their bank account or ATM card details to individuals who solicit such information via phone calls. The Police provided examples illustrating the potential dangers of online fraud to underscore the importance of vigilance.

By proactively engaging with the community and providing practical advice, the City Police aim to empower citizens with the knowledge needed to protect themselves against cyber threats.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Every day, devotees pray to God seeking guidance on navigating the choppy sea of life in *Kali Yugam,* ***little realising that our spiritual leaders such as Sridhara Aiyyavaal of Tiruvisainallur advocate*** *nama parayanam* ***as a practical way to uplift oneself and attain one's goal in life, said Tiruvidaimarudur Brahmasri Nidhiswara Shrowthigal in a discourse.***

Aiyyavaal was a contemporary of Sadasiva Brahmendra and Govindapuram Bhodindra Saraswathy Swamigal, among others. Living under the patronage of the Maratha Kings of Thanjavur, Aiyyavaal's celebrated work, *Aakhya Shashti,* ***refers to the 60 names of Parameswaran. Aiyyavaal named the work as*** *Aakhya Shashti,* ***as*** *Aakhya* ***means name. He visualised Parameswaran as the father and His*** *namam* ***as the mother. He guides devotees in a seamless and effortless method of prayer and devotion. The term Siva itself symbolises everything that is auspicious and sacred and Aiyyavaal explains it succinctly in the 13th verse. When we say,*** *Oh Siva namave, sashi vatu* ***(like moon)*** *upavarashi* ***(ocean)*** *vathati* ***(resides), Siva appears in both the syllables. One does not even have to strain to focus one's faculties on Siva; even mentioning His name in passing will gain one great benefits. It is enough to rid one of one's sins.***

— In The Hindu

NEWS SPARKLERS

500-year-old croc hanging from Church ceiling

Lombardia: The Santuario Della Beata Vergine Maria Delle Grazie, in Italy's Lombardia region, is an old Church famous for having a real taxidermied crocodile hanging from the ceiling.

How the croc wound up at the Santuario Della Beata Vergine Maria Delle Grazie and will probably remain a mystery, but its purpose had been linked to religious symbolism. Some believe that the crocodile was caught and killed after escaping a private exotic zoo on the estate of Francesco Gonzaga, while others claim that the animal one day attacked two brothers resting on the banks of the Mincio River. One of them asked for the help of the Holy Virgin, and armed with a knife attacked and killed the crocodile.

Woman fakes 17 pregnancies to collect benefits

Rome: An Italian woman stands accused of faking no less than 17 pregnancies – 12 natural abortions and 5 false births – over the last 24 years, to receive 110,000 euros (1,20,000 dollars) in maternity benefits.

50-year-old Barbara Ioele has had an unusual number of pregnancies over the last 24 years, which have resulted in years of maternity leave and a small fortune in state-paid benefits. According to documents filed by the woman, she went through 17 pregnancies, 12 of which unfortunately couldn't be carried to term. The other five allegedly resulted in the birth of healthy babies named Benedetta, Angelica, Abramo, Letizia, and Ismaele, only there is no record of them ever being registered, and no one has ever actually seen them. Barbara allegedly birthed her youngest child in December of last year, but now authorities claim she had been under surveillance throughout her late pregnancy and they have proof that she was never pregnant. They are also accusing her of having faked all 17 declared pregnancies to receive over 1,10,000 euros in benefits and get time off from work.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Risk factors for developing gall stones include obesity, rapid weight loss, high fat diet, pregnancy, certain medications and certain medical conditions like diabetes and liver disease.

By Dr. Vasudeva Pai H - Consultant - Surgical Gastroenterology
Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Social Welfare Department holds entrance exam to train aspirants

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (BLU&TRR)- The Social Welfare Department had organised entrance exams for SC/ST and Backward Classes job aspirants to provide coaching for various competitive examinations yesterday.

The examinations were held at Maharaja Government PU College on JLB Road, SBRR Mahajana PU College at Jayalakshmipuram, Government Girls PU College at People's Park, Sri Vivekananda PU College at Jayalakshmipuram, Government PU College on Aniketana Road in Kuvempunagar and Government PU College at Mathrumandali Circle in city.

A total of 2,316 candidates had enrolled for the examination held in two sessions of 150 minutes each. With this initiative of the Social Welfare Department, rural and poor students of SC/ST and Backward Classes can avail the coaching free of cost.

City Police had made arrangements for the smooth conduct of the examination by clamping Sec. 144 around 200 metres of examination centres.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284.00 feet**	Maximum **2,859.00 feet**
Today's level **90.87 feet**	Today's level **2,270.90 feet**	Today's level **2,831.18 feet**
Last year's level **109.76 feet**	Last year's level **2,269.77 feet**	Last year's level **2,828.65 feet**
Yesterday's level **90.93 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,270.99 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,831.23 feet**
Today's Inflow **422 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **54 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **195 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **758 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **500 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **200 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- ***Girls have more taste buds than boys.***
- ***There's a flower that smells like chocolate! Native to Mexico, this dark red flower is not edible. It is called "cosmos atrosanguineus" or "chocolate cosmos."***
- ***A total of 32 muscles can be found in one ear of a cat.***
- ***Dogs have over 1,700 taste buds: A dog's sense of taste is about ⅙ as powerful as the human tongue. Studies have shown that dogs are also able to detect the same basic taste classifications.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Magistrate: *Why did you rob the same shop a second time?*
Thief: *Your Honour, I saw a board in the shop which said, "Thank you ! Come again!!"*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 83.02
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 104.62
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 22.60
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.46

VOICE OF THE READER

Dangerous tree branches at Ramakrishnanagar E&F Block

Sir,

As depicted in this image, a huge tree branch, along with its smaller branches, extends perilously close to the power lines adjacent to the concrete pole at the intersection of 4th/3rd Main Road and 13th Cross Junction in Ramakrishnanagar, E&F Block, 2nd Stage.

The branch is positioned very near to the pole, which stands at the corner with no additional support. Should the branch collapse onto the power lines, it could result in the pole breaking, causing significant damage and disrupting the power supply to the entire street.

I urge the authorities concerned to promptly address this issue by removing the hazardous tree branch, especially with the impending arrival of rain and storms.

—H.S. Shivaram

Mysuru

3.2.2024

Ensure drinking water supply during summer: ZP CEO

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (TRR)- Mysuru Zilla Panchayat (ZP) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) K.M. Gayathri has directed the district officials to visit places where there is shortage of drinking water and solve them on priority basis and ensure that people don't face shortage of drinking water during the coming summer months by taking all necessary steps.

She was speaking while chairing a progress review meeting of various projects at ZP auditorium in the city yesterday.

"Officials must listen to the problems of the people and inform them about the methods they intend to take to solve their problems. Water is a basic need for everyone. To overcome the problem of drinking water in villages, officials must check water level in village wells, ponds, borewells and take necessary steps to fill them with water," said the CEO at the meeting.

Continuing, she said that drinking water must be supplied in tankers to tribals who live in hamlets. Since during summer, health issues like dehydration and contagious diseases are common, the officials must disseminate communication they receive from Health Department to the people of respective Gram Panchayats and see that they follow the instructions, she said adding that officials should also ensure that drainages, roads, water tanks and borewells are always kept clean.

Every official must organise campaigns in villages to create awareness among people. Officials must also file a record of their activities, she said.

ZP Deputy Secretary (Development) Dr. M. Krishnaraju said that it is necessary to build toilets for every house under Swachh Bharat Mission.

He told the officials to receive applications under housing schemes, give information about various schemes and obtain necessary documents from the applicants to reduce the gap between the applications received and rejected. Ensure that every needy person gets the facility," Dr. Krishnaraju noted.

Mysuru urban areas gear up for enhanced voter turnout

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (BCT)- In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha election, Urban Constituencies in Mysuru district are gearing up to boost voter participation, especially in areas like Chamundeshwari, Narasimharaja and Krishnaraja Assembly segments, which saw low voter turnout in the last election.

During a review meeting on election progress held at the Devaraj Urs Hall in the Zilla Panchayat office premises, concerns were raised about historically low voter turnouts in these regions.

P.S. Vastrad, the State Election Commission's SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Programme) Nodal Officer, stressed the importance of enhancing voter engagement.

He called for intensified SVEEP activities to address deficiencies and analyse previous low voter turnout locations. Officers and local election officials were urged to submit comprehensive reports within 10 days, outlining strategies to encourage greater voter involvement.

Efforts to improve voter accessibility include promoting the Election Commission's toll-free number 1950 and raising awareness about voter assistance helplines. Additionally, the use of the Voter Helpline App to access candidate information and understand the electoral process was encouraged.

To ensure better representation of marginalised voters, including persons with disabilities, sexual minorities, leprosy survivors, and gender minorities, Vastrad called for increased enrollment in voter lists. He emphasised the importance of citizens aged 18 completing voter registration and those listed on the voter rolls exercising their right to vote.

Furthermore, he suggested that individuals aged 17, who will turn 18 by the end of the year, can register themselves four times a year to join the voter rolls, thereby increasing female voter participation.

Vastrad highlighted the availability of candidate profiles, EVM details and information on how the Election Commission operates for public access. He stressed the need for awareness campaigns, including the dissemination of election promotion and patriotic songs, to encourage everyone's participation in the voting process.

The meeting was attended by Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Ashaad-Ur-Rehman Shariff, ZP Deputy Secretary Krishnam Raju, Master Trainer Shantha, Deputy Director of Women and Child Welfare Department Suresh, and Election Shirastedar Suresh.

As urban areas in Mysuru district strive to increase voter turnout, concerted efforts are underway to ensure a robust democratic exercise in the upcoming elections.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Gregory L M,** S/o late Lourd Mariappa, Resident of Shivapura Village, Kasaba Hobali, Chamarajanagar Taluk and District. **Currently residing at # S40, Madhuvana Layout, Srirampura 2nd Stage, Mysore 570023.** I have lost my land property original title deed documents bearing **book No.01, document No.CRJ-1-00581-2007-08, CD No. CRJD21 dated 03.07.2007.** Property details: **S.No.102/17p1 4 acres, S.No.102/p2 4 acres, S.No.102/5A 4 acres, S.No. 102/PP1 4 acres.** Situated at Shivapura Village. Kasaba Hobali, Chamarajnagar Taluk and District. Bounded by East: Mahadevegowda's land , West: Bandi daari, North: Road, South: Javaregowda's land. I have lost the original title deeds on the way I was travelling from my land to Chamarajnagar on 05.01.2024. I have given the police complaint at Chamarajnagar Rural Police Station on 07.02.2024 and I have applied for an agriculture loan at Axis Bank Chamarajnagar Branch. Finder please return the above **ORIGINAL TITLE DEEDS** to the above mentioned address.

NEWS BRIEFS

IFS officer transferred

Senior IFS officer T. Heeralal has been transferred as Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) of Chamarajanagar Circle. He was serving as CCF, Ballari Circle. Similarly, K. Chandrashekar, who was serving in Chamarajanagar has been transferred to Ballari Circle. Heeralal had previously served as the Director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve and CCF of Mysuru Circle.

T. Heeralal

Appointed

K.P. Yoganna (Beeranahalli Yoganna) of Kikkeri has been appointed as the Additional Government Pleader of the Karnataka High Court as per the order from Adinarayana, Under Secretary to Government, Law Department, Government of Karnataka.

K.P. Yoganna

Job Mela

The Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has organised a mega job mela in Bangalore Palace Grounds from 9 am on Feb. 26 and 27. Job aspirants between the age of 18 and 35 who have passed SSLC, PUC, Diploma, ITI and any degree can attend the job mela along with a copy of their resume and Aadhaar card. For details, contact Ph: 08232-295010 or call helpline on 18005999918, according to a press release from Mandya Skill Development Officer.

Silk India expo

An exhibition cum sale of silk sarees, suits, dress materials, stoles, dupattas, kurtas and other silk dresses, organised by New Crafts Silk India, has commenced from Feb. 16 at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry on Vinoba Road in city. The expo is open from 10.30 am to 8.80 pm and entry is free. The expo will conclude on Feb. 25. For details, contact Mob: 88509-02824.

Ph.D awardee

L. Santhosha has been awarded Ph.D in Linguistics by the University of Mysore (UoM), Mysuru, for his thesis 'Lambani Kannada Samjobhashika Adhayayna' submitted under the guidance of Dr. G. Vijayasarathi.

Online marriage registration in Mysuru by month-end

Does not apply to those opting for marriage registration under the Special Marriage Karnataka Rules, 1961

Bengaluru/Mysuru, Feb. 19 (BLU&BCT)- In a bid to boost marriage registrations and streamline the application process, Karnataka has introduced an online registration facility for marriages governed by the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

The initiative was inaugurated by Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda at the Malleswaram Sub-Registrar Office in Bengaluru on Feb. 15. The facility will be extended to all Sub-Registrar's Offices across the State including Mysuru before the end of this month.

Explaining the convenience of the new system, he stated, "Individuals are no longer required to physically visit the Sub-Registrar's Office to register their marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act. Instead, they can generate a certificate from the comfort of their home by submitting a wedding invitation or video, and undergoing Aadhaar authentication. This marks another stride towards transparency and efficient service delivery."

Additionally, the State has introduced an online application process for marriages falling under the purview of the Special Marriage Act, of 1954. After providing all the necessary documents online, a visit to the Sub-Registrar's Office will only be for registration.

Nevertheless, for individuals reluctant to undergo Aadhaar authentication, the option for offline registration at the Sub-Registrar's Office remains available. Notably, this alternative does not apply to those opting for marriage registration under the Special Marriage Karnataka Rules, 1961, which necessitates a one-month notice period and the physical presence of both the bride and groom before the Sub-Registrar.

Officials have indicated that the online registration facility is currently being piloted at the Malleswaram Sub-Registrar Office and is slated for expansion to other regions of the State by the end of the month. Citizens can access this service via the dedicated portal (kaveri.karnataka.gov.in). Notably, two marriage registrations were successfully conducted online according to the established schedule.

On Feb. 1, the Karnataka Cabinet endorsed amendments to the Hindu Marriage Registration Act, streamlining the process by facilitating online registration and mitigating the risks of identity fraud and fraudulent registrations. These reforms were initially proposed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the 2023-24 Budget speech.

Despite a 2006 Supreme Court directive mandating compulsory marriage registration, the State Government reports that only around 30 percent of marriages in Karnataka are presently registered.

A legal requirement

Marriage certificates can now be obtained online through the Kaveri portal and dedicated software is currently under development. Senior officials responsible for this initiative are actively engaging in discussions with us. However, a specific implementation date in Mysuru has not been announced. With the introduction of online marriage registration, there is a potential for a significant increase in registrations. Previously, some individuals registered marriages solely to access government benefits. However, there is now a growing trend of more people opting for marriage registration, driven by an increased awareness of this legal requirement. There is a growing understanding among the populace that marriage must be legally registered following the ceremony.

—Vijayalakshmi Inamdar, District Registrar

Woman dies under mysterious circumstances in Mysuru taluk

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (BLU&KS)- A woman has been found dead under mysterious circumstances at Kamanakerehundi in the taluk on Saturday.

The deceased woman has been identified as Geetha, wife of Naveen Kumar. She was given in marriage to Naveen of Naganahalli 22 years ago.

Geetha's father Siddegowda in his complaint to Mysuru Rural Police, has stated that he went to Naveen's house after Naveen's family members informed him that his daughter Geetha's health was not good. But when he went to the house, Naveen's family members informed him that she had committed suicide.

Pointing out that there were marks of wounds on his daughter's body, Siddegowda in the complaint, expressing doubts over his daughter's death has urged the Police for a thorough probe into Geetha's death.

Mysuru Rural Police have registered a case and senior Police officials said that investigation into the death will be conducted after receiving the post-mortem report and legal action will be initiated against the culprits.

Jain Muni passes away

New Delhi, Feb.19- Eminent Jain Muni Acharya 108 Vidyasagar Maharaj passed away at Chandragiri Teertha near Dongarghad in Chhattisgarh State early on Sunday morning.

Vidyasagar Maharaj

The Jain Muni, who undertook Yamasallekhana Vrata three days ago, breathed his last at 2.30 am on Sunday. He was 77.

Born at Sadalaga town in Belagavi district of Karnataka on Oct.10,1946, Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj had his primary education at Sadalaga and High School education at Shamanewadi - Bedakihala. After embarking on a pilgrimage to Shravanabelagola along with Deshabhushan Maharaj, he took Munideeksha from Acharya Gnanasagara Maharaj in 1968 at an young age of 22 years. Later, he became an Acharya on Nov. 22.1972, as a 26-year-old youth.

He was well versed in Kannada, Marathi, English, Hindi and Sanskrit languages. He also wrote a book in Hindi titled' Mooka Maati'.

Obituary

Dr. K.L. Narayanmurthy

Mysuru, Feb. 19- Dr. K.L. Narayanmurthy (Khandate), an Ophthalmologist, who was running Murthy Eye Hospital and a consultant at Vasan Eye Care, passed away on Feb. 18 in city. He was 67.

A resident of No. 25, 1st Main, T.K. Layout in city, he leaves behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites will be held tomorrow (Feb. 20) 12 noon at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam.

Alhaja Mumtaz Begum

Alhaja Mumtaz Begum @ Mumtaz Appa (75), wife of late Nisar Ahmed and a resident of No. 3206/1, Mohammed Sait Block, Lashkar Mohalla, passed away yesterday in city.

She leaves behind four sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Namaz-e-Janaza was held this morning at Masjid-e-Ya-Allah, opposite Government Guest House in Lashkar Mohalla, followed by the burial at the Muslim Burial Grounds near Tipu Circle.

Kendagannaswamy

H.D. Kote: Kendagannaswamy (40), Head Constable at Bannur Police Station and a resident of Metikuppe in Saragur taluk, passed away yesterday.

Son of Somanna, he leaves behind his wife, one son and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Metikuppe this morning, according to family sources.

Dark clouds hover over local weather forecast

Agro-Met Units in Kodagu, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Ramanagara to shut operations from Feb. 29

Kushalnagar, Feb. 19 (Akshay & BCT)- Dealing a huge blow to NITI Aayog's advice on growing climate-based crops, the Centre has decided to shut down the District Agro-Met Units (DAMUs) in Kodagu, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Ramanagara. The reason attributed for the closure is reportedly a fund crunch.

These Agro-Met Units provided vital agrometeorological advisory services to thousands of agricultural workers and farmers. Effective March 1, 2024, the Union Government's directive to cease operations after Feb. 29 will leave farmers without this crucial support.

An automatic weather station at the District Agro-Met Unit, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Gonikoppal in Kodagu District which offers essential guidance to farmers and growers on agricultural practices. Picture right shows soil sensors installed at different depths (10, 30, 50, 70 and 100 centimetres).

A flagship initiative

The Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS) scheme is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), dedicated to providing weather-related services crucial for farmers' decision-making in day-to-day agricultural operations.

This collaborative effort between the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) led to the establishment of 200 District Agro-Met Units (DAMUs) across India in 2018-19. With continuous advancements in observational networks and forecasting technologies, the Agro-Met Advisory Service (AAS) network was expanded to the sub-district / block level.

This expansion is facilitated through the establishment of District Agro-Met Units (DAMUs) within the premises of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) operated by ICAR and State Universities, facilitated by Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs).

In Karnataka, 10 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have Agro-Met Units (Ballari, Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya (VC Farm), Ramanagara, Tumakuru and Yadgir) and they will cease operations from Feb. 29, affecting a total of 199 units nationwide. Consequently, 398 staff members employed in these units will lose their jobs.

WhatsApp groups

These units played a critical role in disseminating agrometeorological advisories to district and block-level farmers via WhatsApp groups, offering essential guidance on agricultural practices. For instance, the Agro-Met Unit at Gonikoppal in Kodagu has over 30 WhatsApp groups and 10,000 farmers are participants.

The unit provides localised information about the weather forecast and even functions as a call centre where the staff answer all the questions posed by farmers and growers on paddy, coffee, black pepper, ginger, arecanut and orange cultivation. Advisories were also sent about livestock maintenance.

Weather summary report, temperature, humidity and rainfall forecast data is disseminated every Tuesday and Friday. These weather bulletins are also accessible to farmers through the Meghdooth app.

Significant risk to farmers

The closure of these Agro-Met Units poses a significant risk to farmers who rely on these advisories for their day-to-day agricultural activities. Moreover, the absence of such forecast could lead to substantial losses for farmers, particularly in regions prone to weather-related challenges like landslides and flash floods.

The Agro-Met Unit at Gonikoppal in Kodagu was set up as the district receives the highest rainfall and the patterns are different in each of the five taluks. Also, farmers need localised information to plan their crops, harvest, irrigation, remove weeds, dry and do other activities. Apart from weekly reports, daily alerts are supplied by this Agro-Met Unit in case of sudden developments in weather.

The advisory services are crucial for coffee growers, as they offer forecasts up to five days in advance and accurately predict heavy rainfall three hours beforehand. These alerts were not only beneficial to farmers but also served as essential tools for the district administration.

Authorities utilised this information to initiate actions such as evacuating people from flood-prone areas and implementing preventive measures. Additionally, these forecasts facilitated timely decisions by local authorities, including school closures, to mitigate the impact of adverse weather conditions.

No local but only district-level advisories from March 1

With the discontinuation of these Agro-Met Units, the responsibility for local forecasting now rests heavily on automatic field units like the Agro-Meteorological Field Unit (AMFU) at the Organic Farming Research Station in Naganahalli (OFRSN), Mysuru or the existing KVKs.

However, these units may only cover districts rather than the smaller administrative units like taluks and blocks, as done by the Agro-Met Units. Farmers are worried that district-level advisories may not adequately address the specific needs of all areas, leaving certain regions without sufficient guidance for their agricultural activities.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, S.K. Chengappa, Agro-Met Observer at ICAR-KVK in Gonikoppal, Kodagu, expressed deep concern over the closure of Agro-Met Units, emphasising the substantial loss incurred by farmers and horticultural communities.

He highlighted the efficiency and structured approach of the Agro-Met Units, with plans underway to extend their reach to the Gram Panchayat level. He said that while farmers may still access district-level information starting March 1, the absence of localised, taluk-level and village-level information will create a significant gap in essential agricultural guidance.

"As of now, we do not have staff or resources to continue the Agro-Met Unit. Will have to see how to continue the local farmers' assistance," said Virendra Kumar, a scientist at ICAR-KVK in Gonikoppal.

Excessive appointments hurting KSOU; letter campaign launched

Mysuru, Feb.19 (GA&TRR)- Expressing serious concerns over the possibility of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) facing closure due to unnecessary appointments, members of the Devaraj Urs Prathime Pratishtana Committee staged a letter campaign near Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), urging the Governor, Chief Minister and Minister for Higher Education to launch an investigation into the irregularities within KSOU.

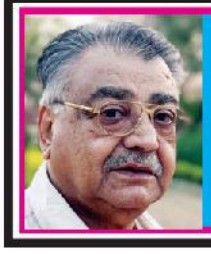
"KSOU has been embroiled in controversies since its inception, with no apparent resolution in sight. Instead of prioritising quality education, it appears more focused on constructing buildings and making unwarranted appointments. It's evident that the authorities are engaged in corruption by hiring excessive teaching and non-teaching staff, surpassing the actual student population," lamented the Committee members.

They highlighted that approximately 400 teaching and non-teaching staff have been appointed between 2022 and the present, resulting in an excess of more than 1,500 personnel. This has led to an additional monthly salary expenditure of Rs. 7 crore to Rs. 8 crore.

Notably, KSOU does not receive financial grants from the Government and relies solely on revenue generated through admissions to cover expenses, including salaries and office maintenance.

Hence, the Committee members demanded immediate intervention from the Governor, Chief Minister and Higher Education Minister to rectify the irregularities by initiating a thorough probe and taking appropriate action against those found guilty. They aim to enable KSOU to fulfil its mandate of providing quality education to its students.

Former Mayor B. Purushotham, Committee President Zakir Hussain, Honorary President M. Chandrashekar, leaders from various organisations including Dyavappanayaka, Pavan Siddarama, Venkatesh, P. Raju, Radiullah Khan, Prashant Arya and others were present.



Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

God save the King of Kongress

2024 Parliamentary Election: Whither Opposition and Congress?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi

The Parliamentary election 2024 is only a couple of months away and the nation is experiencing a new kind of election fever which we have not seen except in 1977, the post-Emergency Parliamentary election. Then, as expected, the newly cobbled up Opposition parties, under the dynamic and well-accepted leadership of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) called Janata Party, took on the Congress party and won.

The present BJP in its older *avatar* at that time known as Bharatiya Jana Sangh was almost an apology of a political party compared to its other partners namely Congress (O), Socialist Party of India (of Raj Narain and George Fernandes), Bharatiya Lok Dal (of Charan Singh, who was posthumously given Bharat Ratna this year) and Swatantra Party (of C. Rajagopalachari and Minoo Masani). Together, these parties, which were a part of Janata Morcha, a political movement known as 'Total Revolution' led by Jayaprakash Narayan, became Janata Party.

During the election campaign, Indira Gandhi called this Janata Party as a 'strange animal' and a 'khichdi' party without any political or moral principles. She called the Janata Party as an 'opportunistic party.' Indira Gandhi was prophetic in her utterances and tirade against the Janata Party. The Janata Party which won the election and formed the government soon came apart as its Central leadership could not hold those disparate parties together with each party asserting its own political and economic ideology. Naturally, things fall apart when Centre cannot hold.

Leaders of these coalition political parties were too ambitious to become Prime Ministers and looking for an excuse, no matter how frivolous it was. A replay of a similar political acrobatics was seen when Rajiv Gandhi was defeated in 1989 and V.P. Singh became the Prime Minister poisoning the nation with Mandal Commission. Its pernicious effect on our country's earlier healthy reservation policy is impacting on our society even now.

Before Mandal Commission, the evil of caste system was just an undercurrent in electoral politics. But thereafter it brazenly surfaced in the elections throwing up many caste-based satraps in States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. No wonder we are hearing the hoarse voices for caste census which will surely perpetuate caste system for all time to come as long as there is electoral politics in our country.

If anyone is to be blamed for this anti-social development, it is our politicians who strut around calling for the abolition of the caste system, but doing nothing about it. We are marching towards an age of reason and societal enlightenment where socially every citizen is of equal status, mutually respected and treated with dignity. But see, what our politicians have done. Their greed for power has seared the souls of the socially discriminated and deprived sections of our citizens. Therefore, we need no more political leaders now. There are enough of them. The need of the hour is for social reformers like Mahatma Gandhi, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Subramania Bharati, Swami Vivekananda, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dayananda Saraswati, Narayana Guru and others.

However, unless the caste factor with its identities is erased from electoral politics, we will never have a fair and free election. Therefore, we need tall social reformers who will reform our politicians to eschew caste factor in elections completely. Is it an utopian idea?

Be that as it may, let us take a peek into the election that is at our doors. As I mentioned, the Opposition coalition in the past, in 1977 and 1989, won the election. To that extent at least it was a successful political strategy, though it committed harakiri soon after forming the government.

But see what is happening to a similar coalition launched to face the BJP (rather Modi!) in the 2024 election. The I.N.D.I. Alliance is a still-born baby. Look at the way I.N.D.I. Alliance is coming apart, exploding. It is said that the strength of a chain depends on its weakest link. But here it seems all its links are weak except the one — Congress! And Congress itself seems to be at large, its Prime Ministerial candidate walking the Indian Roads in all directions on a journey to nowhere.

An angry young man, who had the audacity to tear to smithereens his own UPA government's notification at a press conference in Delhi, he is going to take on Modi in 2024 Parliamentary elections alone, like a One-Man Army without foot soldiers. And worse that his high-ranking officers are deserting him one after the other. Yesterday's *Deccan Herald* had given a list of them by name with an apt sub-heading "Never-ending list" and at the last count there were 34 and still counting.

Well, but "Who is afraid of Virginia Wolf?" Or "Who is afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" Not Rahul Gandhi, of course. Among those who deserted the sinking Congress Boat are many honourable, loyal Congressmen like for example Supreme Court Advocate Kapil Sibal, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Amarinder Singh, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Milind Deora. Yes, others might have left to save their skin from ED.

However, should Congress High Command lose these senior honchos at a critical time of Parliamentary election? No. Rahul Gandhi's great-grandfather Nehru or his grandmother Indira Gandhi and even his father Rajiv Gandhi (who spoke in a public meeting in Mumbai about ending the evil of power-brokers in Congress and then compromised) would not have allowed these stalwarts to leave the party? Didn't Nehru stop Gen. K.S. Thimayya from resigning despite V.K. Krishna Menon? But Rahul has guts. He simply shunned these people with a 'Couldn't care for you' attitude saying "People who are leaving tomorrow, should go today itself."

Now over to the 2024 Parliamentary election.

e-mail:
voice@starofmysore.com

Devaraj Urs

(Continued from page 1)

"It is undeniable that Urs laid the groundwork for providing social benefits to the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society," Sait remarked.

Highlighting the historical significance of Devaraj Urs' contributions, it is worth noting that it was he who renamed Mysuru State as Karnataka fifty years ago. In a remarkable coincidence, the unveiling of the statue of Urs comes during 'Suvarna Sambhrama' celebrations.

Reflecting on Urs' enduring legacy, Sait recalled the renaming of the road stretching from K.R. Circle to JLB Road as D. Devaraj Urs Road in 1978 — a thoroughfare that has since become one of the busiest in city.

Credit for this project goes to CM Siddaramaiah and District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa. The statue inauguration is slated either during Urs' death anniversary in June or his birth anniversary in August, Sait said.

Despite the simplicity of today's Bhoomi Puja ceremony, conducted in anticipation of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and the Model Code of Conduct likely to be enforced soon, Sait assured that the statue's inauguration would be a grand affair with the presence of beneficiaries of schemes launched by Urs.

MLC A.H. Vishwanath reminisced about how Devaraj Urs played a pivotal role in shaping his political career. Describing Urs as a beacon of hope hailing from the remote village of Kallahalli in Hunsur taluk, Vishwanath attributed to him and the Congress party the pioneering efforts in sowing the seeds of social justice in India.

Highlighting the late CM's remarkable initiatives, he noted that under his 'Uluvavane Odeya' (tiller is the owner of land) initiative, 30 lakh acres of land were distributed to the landless. Even today, many families regard Urs as their deity, underscoring his enduring legacy.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. K.V. Rajendra read out the message sent by District Minister Dr. Mahadevappa, who was unable to attend the event. Among the dignitaries present were ZP CEO K.M. Gayathri, Additional DC Shivaraju, Kannada and Culture Joint Director V.N. Mallikarjunaswamy, Assistant Director Sudarshan, former Mayors Purushotham and Dakshina Murthy, B.S. Sridhar Raje Urs, Prof. P.V. Nanjaraj Urs, City Congress President R. Murthy, Statue Installation Samiti President Zakir Hussain, Congress leader Dairy Venkatesh and former District Kannada Sahitya Parishat Presidents M. Chandrashekar and Y.D. Rajanna.

Grand procession marks Shivaji Maharaj Jayanthotsava in city

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (BLU&VNS)- A grand procession was taken out as part of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanthotsava celebrations jointly organised by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj 397th Jayanthotsava Committee and District Administration, in city this morning.

The procession was flagged off by Chamaraja MLA K. Harishgowda. A statue and portrait of Shivaji Maharaj accompanied the procession which passed through Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Chamaraja Wadiyar Circle, Albert Victor Road, K.R. Circle, Devaraja Urs Road, Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa Circle, Vinoba Road before culminating at Kalamandira where a stage programme was held. Various folk troupes including dollu kunita, bidiru bombe among others added glitter to the procession.

Trust to undertake padayatra from Mysuru to Dharmasthala on Feb. 29

Mysuru, Feb.19 (GA&TRR)- Kuduma Srikshetra Dharmasthala Padayatre Trust is organising a padayatra from Mysuru city to Dharmasthala on Feb. 29 so as to reach the destination on Mar. 8, said Trust President M.K. Mahadeva while speaking to press persons at Pathrakartara Bhavan in city yesterday.

The proposed padayatra is being organised to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the Trust.

About 300 people will participate in the padayatra, said Mahadeva. Continuing, he said the Trust will provide free breakfast, lunch, dinner and accommodation to those who participate in the padayatra. A puja will be held at 7 pm on Feb. 28 at Kote Anjaneyaswamy temple in the city and the padayatra will begin next morning at 4 am.

The padayatra will go on continuously for 8 days and will cover a distance of 30 to 40 kms daily, he said.

Office-bearers of the Trust Gopamma, Ashok, Mahadesh, Rahul and Somu Hassan were present at the press conference.

Power disruption on Feb. 21

Mysuru, Feb. 19- Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) will take up emergency maintenance works at 66/11 KV Chandrawadi and 66/11 KV Hura Electricity Distribution Centre on Feb. 21.

Hence, there will be disruptiion in power supply between 10 am and 5 pm in the following areas: Chandrawadi, Nellitalapura, Kurihundi, Haradanahalli and Duggalli villages, Gram Panchayats; Hura, Hadya, Hallare, Devarayashettipura and Hedayala villages and Gram Panchayats, according to a press release from CESC Executive Engineer, Nanjangud division.

I am committed to bring Metro Rail to Mysuru: MP

(Continued from page 1)

Typically, the routes for a Metro Rail system in a Tier-II and Tier-III city are determined based on factors such as population density, traffic patterns and connectivity to key areas such as residential neighbourhoods, commercial hubs and transportation terminals.

"We will ask local authorities and urban planners to conduct thorough studies and engage with the community to determine the most effective routes for a Metro Rail system in Mysuru," MP Pratap Simha added.

"We are committed to establishing Greater Mysuru, incorporating a Greater Mysuru City Corporation. We have upgraded numerous Gram Panchayats to Town Panchayats and Town Panchayats to City Municipal Councils, with plans underway to integrate 45 to 47 villages into Greater Mysuru. The BJP has consistently prioritised the Mysuru city's scientific progress, introducing transformative projects like the Peripheral Ring Road and the Greater Mysuru City Corporation. Regrettably, the Congress party has obstructed the Greater Mysuru project for political reasons," he said.

"Narendra Modi will resume office as Prime Minister for the third term and the Namma Mysuru Metro Rail project will become a reality. The roads in Mysuru, planned three to four years ago, have now become congested due to increased traffic, necessitating the implementation of Metro Rail service and a Peripheral Ring Road," emphasised Pratap Simha.

"The groundwork for conducting surveys to quadruple railway tracks, particularly from Mysuru to Bengaluru and other destinations, is currently underway by the Railway Board. Upon completion of the project, a couple of new electric trains will ply between the two cities and efforts will commence to link the Metro Rail from Mysuru to Kengeri in Bengaluru," he elaborated.

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— Management

OBITUARY

Dr. Narayanmurthy K.L. (Khandate), Age 67 Years
Ophthalmologist, Murthy Eye Hospital & Consultant at Vasan Eye Care,
Resident of #25, 1st Main, T.K. Layout, Mysore
passed away on 18.02.2024, last rites will be held on Tuesday 20.02.2024, 12 Noon at Gokulam Crematorium, Mysore.
Deeply Mourned by : Wife, Sons, Family & Friends

6th Death Anniversary

My beloved father's love will never end, it's there from beginning to end.
Late Alhaj B. ILYAS AHMED SAHEB
Date : 19.02.2028
Your's Daughter - Fathima Jabeen

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Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.

Book on Pranab's diaries

By Dr. C.D. Sreenivasa Murthy

Dr. Sreenivasa Murthy

A boy aged 11 years had come to Calcutta to attend the wedding of his eldest brother. The day was 16th August 1946, an infamous day in India's history. Probably the worst communal riots in Bharat took place on that day, incited by the call for direct action given by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Founder of Pakistan. The family could not return to their village for several days till it was safe to travel.

The boy was restless. Someone handed him a notebook and a pencil to keep him occupied and asked him to write down his daily observations. This practice of chronicling his daily life and impressions every night after his hectic work schedule continued for over 70 years.

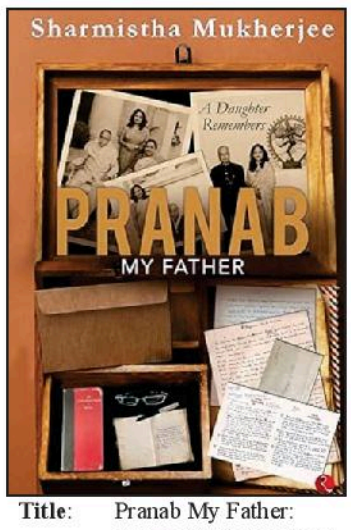
This young boy, **Pranab Mukherjee,** went on to become a six-term MP and a Minister for 23 years holding various high-profile portfolios of External Affairs, Commerce, Finance and Defence. The habit of diary writing continued throughout his busy life schedule.

When he retired after a full term of five years as the President of India in 2017, his diaries were 53 big volumes. **These were handed to his daughter Sharmistha for safekeeping, with strict instructions to open and read them only after he had breathed his last.**

Sharmistha has published the book *'Pranab My Father: A Daughter Remembers,'* based on the late President's diaries. The book is also partly biography and personal memoirs. It is also a chronicle of the political story of his times. The desire to publish the diaries posthumously is understandable as they have many frank and unflattering remarks about his contemporary political figures.

Mamata Banerjee was a long-time family friend of Pranab. She would frequently visit their house and often dine with them. Yet she vehemently opposed when Pranab was nominated for President of India. When Sharmistha asks about the strange behaviour of Mamata, her father's philosophical comment is that she is always unpredictable. Eventually, the West Bengal CM changed her stance and supported Pranab Mukherjee for the Presidency.

Pranab was a lifelong staunch Congress party man. He was a protege of Indira Gandhi and he always looked up to her as his mentor. He was a stickler for rules, procedures and constitutional propriety. **Surprisingly, his diary entries seem to be silent on the Emergency imposed by his leader. Probably, for whatever reasons, he had made his peace with the excesses of Emergency and his inner voice.**



Title: Pranab My Father: A Daughter Remembers
Author: Sharmistha Mukherjee
Year: 2024
Pages: 368 pages
Price: Rs. 795
Publisher: Rupa Publications India Pvt. Ltd.

Despite his fanatic loyalty to Indira and the party, he had to face the ignominy of being suspended from the party by her son, the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This suspension he attributes to machinations of the coterie around Rajiv. After about two years, he was reinstated in the party due to the efforts of his friends.

He mentions sycophancy culture and the absence of dissent in the party and general political discourse. Sharmistha sought her father's advice about leaving the Congress party after her defeat in the Delhi elections, his answer was cryptic. **He asked her to remember the sentence from the *Bhagavad Gita,* *'Swadharme Nidhanam Shreyah'*. (It is better to perish in your *dharma),* cryptically advising her not to change her *swadharma* which is the Congress party.**

Like any ambitious politician, Pranab had his ups and downs in his political career. In one of his diary notings, he writes a political activist should always be alert, always active and develop objectivity, most importantly the ability to absorb disappointments is necessary.

His comments about Sonia Gandhi and her family are quite frank and acerbic. He tells his daughter that Sonia will never allow him to become the Prime Minister because there is a trust deficit between them. Again he

Pranab Mukherjee Sharmistha

ascribes this to the clique surrounding her. **He is critical of Rahul Gandhi for publicly tearing the ordinance promulgated by the Manmohan Singh Government.**

His sarcastic comment is that Rahul has the arrogance of the Nehru-Gandhi family, without their political acumen. When Pranab was honoured with the Bharat Ratna, the first family members were conspicuously absent at the ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Pranab Mukherjee spent most of his public life in the Parliament, both in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. He had a deep understanding of the Parliamentary procedures and the Indian Constitution. He had many friends across the aisle in all the Opposition parties. He administered the oath of office to Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi in 2014.

Both had risen from diverse backgrounds. Modi was a committed RSS person having risen from a *Pracharak* to the high office of Pradhan Mantri. Pranab Mukherjee was a diehard Congressman having risen from a Cabinet Minister to the high office of Rashtrapati.

Surprisingly the PM and the President had great bonhomie in their relationship. It is said, the PM always touched his (Pranab) feet whenever he came to meet the President. Modi reciprocated this friendship by conferring the nation's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna on him. When President Pranab accepted the invitation to be the chief guest at RSS annual meet, Congress party urged him not to attend.

His daughter Sharmistha too dissuaded him and told her father that by attending the event he was giving legitimacy to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). His reply was, "Who am I to give legitimacy when people of this country have given it by electing a humble *Pracharak* of RSS to the highest political office of the nation." The book, brimming with filial adoration, has many explosive comments, well-written with candour and appears a teaser for publication of the full transcripts of the diaries. The volume reminds us of the political landscape of those times and is eminently readable and unputdownable.

Geeth Gaatha Chal-22

Doctor's Musical Nite on Mar. 3

Dr. Shenoy

Dr. Kushalappa

Mysuru, Feb. 19 - Geeth Gaatha Chal - 22, the Annual Doctor's Musical Nite presented by City Doctors and their families will be held on March 3 (Sunday) from 5 pm to 9 pm at Kalamandira on Hunsur Road, Mysuru.

The doctor-singers will render popular, soul-stirring, classics and haunting melodies from the Golden Era of movies taking the audience down the memory lane.

The event is sponsored by noted industrialist and philanthropist Dr. M. Jagannath Shenoy. Dr. C. Umesh Kamath is the Patron of Geeth Gaatha Chal while Dr. P.A. Kushalappa is its Organising Chairperson.

Singers at the event include: Dr. M.S. Natashekhar, Dr. Preethi Prabhu, Dr. P.A. Kushalappa, Dr. U. Ganesh Rao, Dr. Suraj Upadhya, Dr. G.D. Ravi Kumar, Dr. U.G. Shenoy, Prithvi Shankar, Apoorva Natashekar, R.L.Varsha, Dr. Sushma Krishnamurty, Dr. Somnath Vasudeva, Dr. Seethalakshmi Somnath, Sparsha Shenoy, Dr. Amrutha Upadhya, Dr. Shyam Prasad, Dr. Snehashree Nirmalkumar and Ranjitha.

The programme will be anchored by Syed Aftab Ahmed.

18th Ramesh Desai Memorial National Tennis Tournament

Padmapriya, Shristi duo emerge champions

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (MTY&VNS)- Karnataka duo Padmapriya Ramesh Kumar and Shristi Kiran won the U-12 girls doubles championship in the 18th Ramesh Desai Memorial National Tennis Tournament conducted by the All India Tennis Association (AITA) at MSLTA, Mumbai, from Feb. 12 to 17. In the final, Karnataka pair beat Khushi Khadian and Sarena Gahlot of Haryana 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 to emerge champions.

Padmapriya, daughter of Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director Dr. P. Ramesh Kumar and Conservator of Forests (CF), Mysuru Circle, Dr. M. Malathi Priya, is ranked 4th in the country in the U-12 girls category while her partner Shristi is ranked number 1. Similarly, the Haryana pair of Khushi and Sarena is ranked second and third in U-12 girls category respectively.

NIDJAM - 2024

City's Kashvi wins silver in Triathlon

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (VNS)- Kashvi, an eighth grade student of Podar International School in city, has won the silver medal in Triathlon C category for U-14 girls at the NIDJAM 2024 - National Inter-District Junior Athletic Meet, held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, from Feb. 16 to 18 with a total of 2,469 points.

The last time Mysuru has won a medal was in 2015 when Ambika had won the gold medal in shot put event representing the city in the U-16 girls category.

Currently, Kashvi is being trained by G.R. Prabhakara, a retired SAI Coach, since 2018.

Kashvi

She is the daughter of Sathyagith and Vaishali and granddaughter of A.C. Lakshmana, a retired IFS Officer.

Minister Madhu Bangarappa interacts with students at Shakthidhama

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (MK&BS)- Minister of School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa has advised the students to achieve in life with constant efforts, without considering failure in academics as the dead end.

He was speaking during an interaction organised by Shakthidhama Trust and Shakthidhama Vidyashala, at the foot of Chamundi Hill in city on Saturday.

"If a student fails in exams and feels that there is nothing left in life, they cannot face challenges in life and reach their aim. It is only with perseverance that one can achieve in their life," he said.

Answering to the question of a student named Siddamma, who was curious to know whether there are any changes between the previous and present education system, the Minister said "Earlier, most children were deprived of education. Now, owing to many reforms in the system, education has been made compulsory for all. The impetus is also given to the health of the students, by providing nutritious food, milk and egg at all Government Schools. Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is supplying milk for five days a week. Likewise, education sector has undergone many changes for the benefit of children's future."

Even now in most of the places, children are forced to learn at schools by squatting on the floor. Hence, measures are taken to develop a sense of equality among students by providing desks and benches to schools, he added.

"The State Government has chalked out schemes in the field of education that are essential to shape the future of country and also the students. To realise the schemes, Rs. 44,000 crore has been earmarked for education sector in the recent budget for the year 2024-25," the Minister said.

Swathi, an SSLC student, referred to increase in number of exams, replying to which, the Minister said "Exams are integral in view of learning for students. But there is nothing to fear about the exams. Instead, preparations should be conducted before hand without succumbing to fear. However, there is a provision to write supplementary exams same year. One should come out of the mindset of hitting the dead end upon failing in exams and make judicious use of the opportunities. Even Government wants all the students to pass the exams. The students should study with devotion than suffering from exam tension."

To a suggestion of Kruthika, a class eight student to implement skill-based education on cyber security, information technology among others, he said "At school level, the students should follow textbooks for learning. But still there is a provision for extra-curricular activities. It is only after SSLC or II PUC, there are opportunities for skill-based education and higher education. Unlike earlier days, the Information Technology is way ahead now, with the plethora of information available on cell phone."

Singing of Preamble

Earlier, the students rendered a song on the preamble of Indian Constitution to spread the message of 'Constitution as Religion.' A troupe of students comprising Ankitha, Durgamma, Jnanama, Rekha and others exhibited their skills in Rope Mallakambha art.

Hon. President of Shakthidhama Trust Geetha Shivarajkumar explained about the functioning of the school.

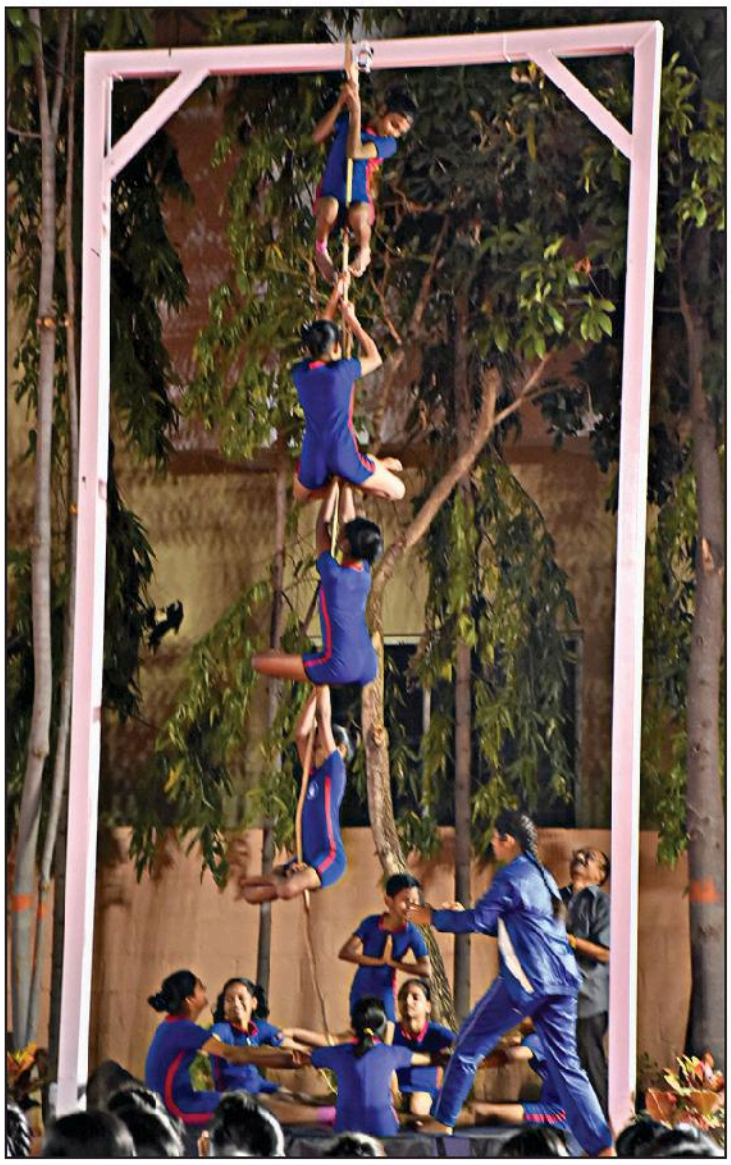
Actor Shivarajkumar, KMF Chairman Bheema Naik, Director of Shakthidhama Vidyashala Manjula, Trustee Sadanand and others were present.

'Namma Shale Namma Javabdhari' from Feb. 27

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will be launching 'Namma Shale Namma Javabhdari' programme on Feb. 27.

The concept of the programme is to encourage the alumni to do their mite for their alma mater. Accordingly, the CM will be donating Rs. 10 lakh from his salary to the school he studied.

"I am also lending a helping hand towards the Government School where my father had his early education. This initiative will come in handy in running Smart Class and supplying computers to Government Schools," said the Minister.



State-level Model Vidhana Sabha competition held

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (BLU&DM)- The first State-level Model Vidhana Sabha and Legislative Drafting Competition, organised by JSS Law College of city, was held at the Conference Hall in Mysuru City Corporation.

Karnataka Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader had formally inaugurated the competition at the venue on Friday evening. About 55 students from over 15 different Law Colleges across the State took part in the event.

Narasimharaja (NR) MLA Tanveer Sait distributed prizes to the winners at the valedictory function held on Saturday evening.

Bengaluru Law College student Aditya V. Shetty functioned as the Assembly Speaker, Belagavi's R.L. College student Satish functioned as Deputy Speaker, K.H. Yeshwanth of Saraswathi College in Chitradurga as the Chief Minister, JSS Law College student D. Basanth as Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister and M. Jeevan of city's Vidyavardhaka Law College as the Opposition leader.

The students emulated the actions of the Legislators in the Assembly and also that of the Chief Minister, other Cabinet Ministers, Opposition leader and other ruling and Opposition parties members.

MCC Commissioner Ashaad-Ur-Rahman Shariff, Joint Director of Tourism M.K. Savitha, JSS Law College Principal A. Nataraj, Co-ordinator G. Asmathunnisa, Maharani PG Centre faculty Hemachandra and others were present.

WORD OF THE DAY

Enervate

Pronunciation: EN-er-vayt.
Meaning: Enervate is a formal word used for situations in which someone or something is being sapped of physical or mental vigour, vitality, or strength. The verb is most common in the participial forms enervated and enervating, as in "children enervated by the summer afternoon heat" and "a tedious discussion we found completely enervating."
Origin: Do not let any haziness in your understanding of enervate cause you to be enervated. Confusion about this somewhat rare word is reasonable, and aided greatly by the fact that although enervate looks like a plausible product of the joining of energize and invigorate, it is actually an antonym of both. Enervate comes from a form of the Latin verb enervare, which literally means "to remove the sinews of," and figuratively means simply "to weaken." Enervare was formed from the prefix e-, meaning "out of," and nervus, meaning "sinew, nerve." So etymologically, at least, someone who is enervated is "out of nerve." Knowing this, you no longer need be unnerved by it.
Example: "Toward the end of Paved Paradise ... [author, Henry] Grabar follows housing activists' efforts to legalize in-law apartments carved from single-family houses, in many cases from the garage. The mere fact of this movement epitomizes the underlying problem: Local regulations have blocked apartments while allowing parking structures because, for most of seven or eight decades, city planners got hung up on the wrong issue. The visionaries of Victor Gruen's day simply failed to foresee how the relentless promotion of parking spaces might enervate cities and crowd out other needs." — Dante Ramos, The Atlantic, 4 June 2023.

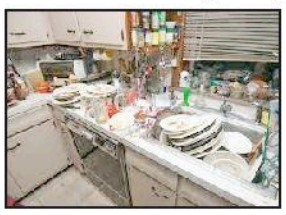
THE ODD WORD

Eirenicon

Peace-making message, proposition for peace.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Everything but the kitchen sink



Meaning: You use the phrase 'Everything but the kitchen sink' when discussing a situation that includes just about everything possible.
Origin: The origin of the expression 'Everything but the kitchen sink' isn't clear; however it is believed to come from early 20th century America. The first printed example comes from a 1918 edition of The Syracuse Herald: "I have I shall rather enjoy the experience though the stations are full of people trying to get out and the streets blocked with perambulators, bird cages, and 'everything but the kitchen sink.'"
Example: "When we moved to Indiana, we didn't have much. By the time we sold our house 20 years later, we had to pack everything but the kitchen sink to move into the new place."

QUOTE BOX

The kitchen is the heart of every home, for the most part. It evokes memories of your family history. **—Debi Mazar**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

TEETH
TEETH

Answer: Set your teeth on edge.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

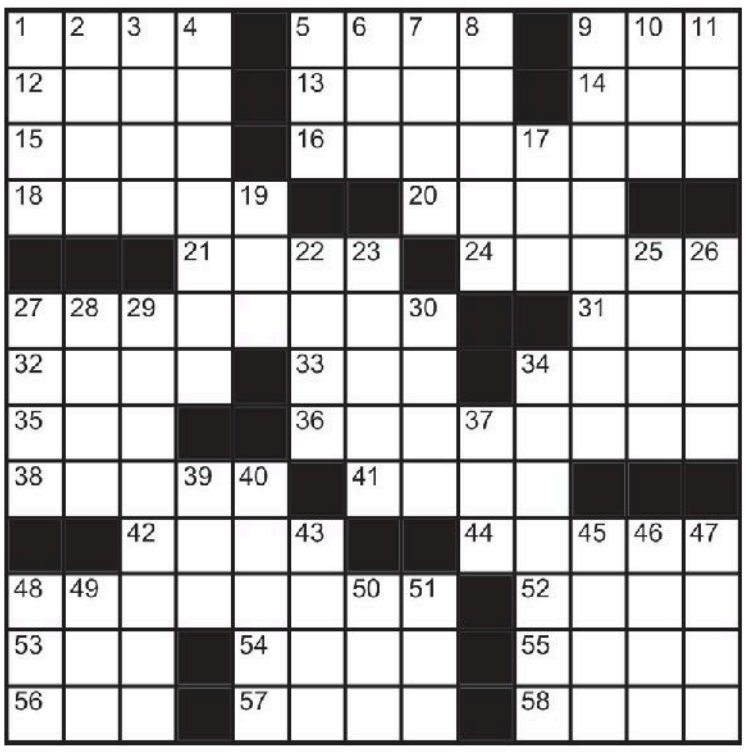
1 Maulana Abul Kalam ___ : freedom fighter?
5 IIM grads.
9 These ratings measure TV audiences - "mat" anagram?
12 Board game along with snakes and ladder
13 Cheerful tune
14 Tear, rend or shred
15 Strip skin off
16 Plagiarizing or pilfering
18 More certain
20 Steffi of tennis
21 Indian leavened bread
24 Lock of hair
27 Plotted
31 Certified Public Accountant, in short
32 Shivering illness
33 City in Nigeria
34 Male deer
35 Asian honorific
36 Devote to sacred person or purpose
38 Writer of fables
41 Reflecting optimism
42 Attitude-Heading Ref. Sys.
44 Aquatic animal
48 Our former PM Dr __ Singh
52 Lease or rent
53 Plastic type
54 Capital of Shaanxi province, China
55 Canal or Lake
56 Haw's partner?
57 Nimble - "year" anagram?
58 Transmit

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

N	O	T	■	S	P	A	M	■	M	A	G	I
U	K	E	■	O	R	S	O	■	C	O	I	F
T	R	A	N	S	E	P	T	■	G	A	G	S
S	A	M	O	A	■	S	T	I	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	Y	E	■	O	R	A	P	R	O
O	O	H	■	S	A	Y	■	S	T	A	C	K
G	N	A	T	■	U	S	E	■	H	E	M	A
A	L	A	R	M	■	L	E	G	■	S	P	Y
M	Y	R	I	A	D	■	N	U	B	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	R	A	C	■	I	T	A	L	Y
P	E	R	U	■	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	S
U	N	I	T	■	I	D	E	A	■	I	S	E
B	A	D	E	■	T	I	E	R	■	D	E	R

DOWN

1 Belonging to Alfred, in short?
2 Member of an African race
3 Hebrew month
4 Senior female member
5 Microwave Landing Sys.
6 Scrap or mite
7 An arm and _ __ (1,3)
8 Begin
9 A difficult bet on the race course
10 Scots "own"
11 Fuel economy letters
17 Ancient Roman household deity
19 Bollywood's Aishwarya __ Bachchan
22 Keen
23 More recent
25 Gaiter-like item of footwear
26 Wise - "ages" anagram
27 Spanish home
28 Hideous giant
29 Pest or irritation
30 Extinct bird
34 Grass-cutting tools
37 Prefix meaning equal
39 Unit of electrical resistance
40 As substitute
43 One of the two main branches of Islam
45 To become weary
46 Eire or Ireland ?
47 Marshy plant
48 Master of philosophy, acronym ?
49 Hail as to Maria
50 ___ Paar: 1954 Guru Dutt movie
51 Opp. of SSW



SUDOKU

	7						8	
		8			7			6
	3	5	9		4			
3			6				4	
		1		7		6		
	9				1			5
			4		9	5	6	
5			3			9		
	6						1	

Answer to previous puzzle

7	6	4	8	3	5	9	1	2
3	9	1	7	6	2	8	4	5
8	5	2	1	9	4	6	7	3
1	4	8	9	7	3	5	2	6
5	7	9	2	4	6	3	8	1
6	2	3	5	8	1	4	9	7
4	8	6	3	2	7	1	5	9
9	1	7	6	5	8	2	3	4
2	3	5	4	1	9	7	6	8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

ZQJ SWMY UKZ GZ UKZ. ZQJ

NKT'L GJWSU ZQJF SWDY.

TODAY'S CLUE: N EQUALS C

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Disgrace does not consist in the punishment, but in the crime.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Prabha Theatre** — Mob: 98454-14691
  E-mail (K) - 2 Shows; Ladies Bar (K) 2 Shows
- **Gayathri Theatre** — Ph: 2443568
  Ondu Sarala Premakathe (K) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — Ph: 2520494
  Upadhyaksha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — Mob: 99008-20093
  Upadhyaksha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — Ph: 2420885
  5D 2024 (K) - 2 Shows; *KTM (K)* - 2 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — Ph: 2422871
  Kaatera (K) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — Ph: 2497199
  Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H) - 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — Ph: 2452958
  5D 2024 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — Ph: 2521923
  5D 2024 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — Ph: 2423554
  Siren (Ta) - 4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Shakhahari (K)	(S-1)	10.15 am
KTM (K)	(S-1)	1.10 pm
Teri Baatoon Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	(S-1)	4.15 pm
Abbabba (K)	(S-1)	7.05 pm
Bramayugam (Ma)	(S-1)	10 pm; (S-3) 7.10 pm
Thundu (Ma)	(S-2)	10.50 am
Bob Marley: One Love (E)	(S-2)	1.40 pm
Biography	(S-2)	4.20 pm
Kuch Khatta Ho Jaay (H)	(S-2)	7.00 pm
Premalu (Ma)	(S-2)	1.40 pm
Bob Marley: One Love (E)	(S-2)	10.10 pm
Mandya Haida (K)	(S-3)	10.15 am
Siren (Ta)	(S-3)	1.15 pm
Madame Web (E)	(S-3)	4.35 pm, 10.00 pm
Saramsha (K)	(S-4)	10.20 am
Upadhyaksha (K)	(S-4)	1.05 pm
Fighter 2D (H)	(S-4)	4.10 pm
Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe (K)	(S-4)	7.20 pm, 10.15 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Madame Web (E)	:	11.00 am, 4.25 pm, 9.30 pm
Alemari E Baduku (K)	:	11.15 am
Abbabba (K)	:	1.10 pm
Upadhyaksha (K)	:	1.15 pm, 4.00 pm
Mandya Haida (K)	:	1.30 pm
Ondu Sarala Premakathe (K)	:	1.35 pm, 7.30 pm
Saramsha (K)	:	4.10 pm
Thundu (Ma)	:	4.10 pm
5D -2024 (K)	:	6.40 pm
KTM (K)	:	6.40 pm
Bramayugam (Ma)	:	6.50 pm, 9.30 pm
E-mail (K)	:	9.10 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	:	9.30 am, 3.55 pm, 7.10, 10.20 pm
Siren (Ta)	:	10.00 am, 1.05 pm, 7.15 pm
Ooru Peru Bhairavakona (Te)	:	10.10 am, 4.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Madame Web (E)	:	10.50 am, 1.25 pm, 4.35, 7.10 pm
Sapta Sagaradaache Ello - A (K)	:	11.00 am
Ondu Sarala Premakathe (K)	:	12.15 pm
Premalu (Ma)	:	12.40 pm, 7.05 pm, 10.20 pm
Saramsha (K)	:	1.15 pm
Abbabba (K)	:	2.55 pm
Upadhyaksha (K)	:	3.25 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	4.00 pm
Anweshippin Kandethum (Ma)	:	4.05 pm
Varanam Aayiram (Ta)	:	6.00 pm
Fighter (H)	:	6.35 pm
Bob Marley: One Love (E)	:	9.45 pm
Ravike Prasanga (K)	:	9.50 pm
Bramayugam (Ma)	:	10.00 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Madame Web (E)	:	10.40 am, 1.50 pm, 7.40 pm, 10.15 pm
KTM (K)	:	12 noon
Ooru Peru Bhairavakona (Te)	:	12.05 pm, 6.30 pm
Shakhahaari (K)	:	12.25 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	1.15 pm
Upadhyaksha (K)	:	3.10 pm
Siren (Ta)	:	3.15 pm, 9.30 pm
Thundu (Ma)	:	3.30 pm
Premalu (Ma)	:	4.25 pm, 9.30 pm
Bramayugam (Ma)	:	6.20 pm
Ondu Sarala Premakathe (K)	:	9.45 pm
Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	:	6.35 pm

INOX — LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 7829999465

Upadhyaksha (K)	(S-1)	10.05 am; (S-2) 7.15 pm
Teri Batoon Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	(S-3)	10.00 pm
Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe (K)	(S-4)	10.05 am, 4.20 pm
Ooru Peru Bhairavakona (Te)	(S-1)	3.55 pm
Bramayugam (Ma)	(S-4)	10.20 pm
Premalu (Ma)	(S-3)	6.45 pm
Bob Marley: One Love (E)	(S-3)	4.10 pm
Madame Web (E)	(S-1)	1.20 pm, 7.05 pm, 9.40 pm
	(S-2)	9.55 am
Siren (Ta)	(S-2)	4.00 pm, 10.30 pm
	(S-3)	12.15 pm
Abbabba (K)	(S-4)	1.15 pm
Thundu (Ma)	(S-4)	7.30 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Mob: 9606976757

Madame Web (E)	:	10.35 am, 12.40 pm, 7.35 pm, 10.10 pm
Upadhyaksha (K)	:	11.40 am, 4.20 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	12 noon
Saramsha (K)	:	12.30 pm
5D - 2024 (K)	:	2.55 pm
Shakhahaari (K)	:	3.15 pm
Ravike Prasanga (K)	:	3.20 pm
Siren (Ta)	:	5.45 pm
KTM (K)	:	6.20 pm
Bramayugam (Ma)	:	6.30 pm
Mandya Haida (K)	:	9.00 pm
Premalu (Ma)	:	9.30 pm
Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	:	1.10 pm, 9.30 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15.

'Dasasourabha' by Vidwan Anantha Kulkarni enthrals music-lovers at BVB

Mysuru, Feb. 19 (PM&BS)- Vidwan Anantha Kulkarni presented 'Dasasourabha' music concert, infusing new life to the devotional songs of Dasa literature, as part of the monthly music programme, organised jointly by Infosys Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Bengaluru-Mysuru Centres, at BVB's Prof. Y.T. Thathachari auditorium in Vijayanagar I Stage in the city on Saturday.

The concert was the 124th cultural outreach programme held at BVB that captivated music-lovers for over two hours.

Vid. Kulkarni sang in Hindustani Classical Music style and his rendition of "Besarave Bhajisiro Purandara Dasarayara..." composed by Vijayadasa, re-telling the life story of Purandaradasa.

Anantha Kulkarni, hailing from a traditional family in Bagalkot, had developed a profound fascination for music from a very young age.

He was accompanied by Vishnu Joshi on tabla, Ashwin Walawalkar on harmonium and Sudhanva Kamalapur on taala.

BVB Mysuru Hon. Secretary P.S. Ganapathy, Treasurer Dr. A.T. Bhashyam, Executive Committee Member Dr. Tulasi Ramachandra, Administrative Officer S.R. Ravikumar, BVB School Principal S. Lekha Nair, Music teacher Suma Harinath and others were present.

EVENTS TODAY (FEB. 19)

- **Coffee City:** 'Twilight Whispers of Hampi - Photography Expo' by Shivashankar Banagar, Neralu-Belaku Gallery, Coffee City, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, **up to 9 pm.**
- **Haridasa Sangeethotsava Samiti, Mysuru:** Sumadhwa-Vijaya Express, Madhwa-Purandara Namana and Ganasiri-Vedanta Lahari Part-11, Sri 1008 Satyatma Theertha Sripadangal graces the occasion, Sumadhwavijaya 3 & 4 Sargagalu, Pt. Sri Brahmanyacharya explains, Vid. Anantha Kulkarni sings, Sarada Vilas Centenary Hall, Krishnamurthypuram, **5.30 pm to 8.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (FEB. 20)

- **Coffee City:** 'Twilight Whispers of Hampi - Photography Expo' by Shivashankar Banagar, Neralu-Belaku Gallery, Coffee City, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, **10 am to 9 pm.**
- **Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC), Bengaluru, District Industries Centre (DIC), Mysore Industries Association (MIA) and Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Mysuru:** One-day awareness workshop on 'Export promotion measures and procedures,' Institution of Engineers-India (IEI), JLB Road, **10.30 am.** [Mob: 94818-15035]
- **District Administration and Kannada & Culture Department, Mysuru:** Santa Kavi Sarvajna Jayanti celebrations, Geeta Gayana by Sridhar and troupe, Mysuru, **10.30 am;** Stage programme, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa inaugurates, Chamaraja MLA K. Harishgowda presides, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, **10.30 am.**
- **Haridasa Sangeethotsava Samiti, Mysuru:** Sumadhwa-Vijaya Express, Madhwa-Purandara Namana and Ganasiri-Vedanta Lahari Part-11, Sri 1008 Satyatma Theertha Sripadangal graces the occasion, Sumadhwavijaya 5 & 6 Sargagalu, Pt. Sri Narasimhacharya Gothe explains, Vid. Ashish Nayak and Vidu. Chandana Muralidhar will sing, Sarada Vilas Centenary Hall, Krishnamurthypuram, **5.30 pm to 8.30 pm.**

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URS KAR

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